

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
March 24, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: 6:32 p.m.

INVOCATION: Reverend Roger Wills – Trinity Free Methodist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Miano and Mr. Widing were absent. All other members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS:

Mr. Pettit announced that Vequity Stonebridge LLC, the developer for the new Ashley Furniture project, approached him and wanted to contribute toward the FOP Fallen Officer memorial. Vequity presented Mr. Minchuk, president of the FOP, with a donation check in the amount of \$5,000 for the memorial honoring fallen Officer Nickolaus Schultz. While the donation took place, it was evident many continue to ache over Schultz's tragic death. Mr. Pettit made a motion to match the contribution with another \$5,000 and was seconded by Mr. Spann. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Goralczyk requested the Town Council grant permission for St. Constantine & Helen Ladies Society to use the town marque to advertise a fundraiser. They are planning their 8th Annual Benefit Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser to help the Ross Township food pantry. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Goralczyk also announced that the Ross Township trustee office will be sponsoring the 27th Annual Easter Egg Hunt from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 28, 2015 at Hidden Lake Park.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated March 24, 2015.

Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2015. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Spann announced the 2015 Spring Clean-up schedule pick up week of April 6th for all residents who live north of 73rd Ave and April 13th for all residents who live south of 73rd Ave.

Mr. Bushemi read each of the documents in their entirety:

1) *Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG) opening remarks for Public Hearing.* The Town of Merrillville CDBG allocation is \$144,430.00. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

2) *Lake County, Indiana of Section 3 Understanding*

Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

3) *Affirmative Action Program Implementing Section 3 of the Housing & Urban Development Act of 1968 & approval of Mr. Spires as Equal Opportunity Officer.* Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Miano was absent, no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mr. Widing was absent, no report.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Mrs. Miano was absent, no report. Ms. Orlich stated the second senior meeting was on March 13th in which 30 members attended. She thanked Olive Garden for the complimentary lunch they provided at the meeting. Ms. Orlich ordered dog waste stations for the walking trails and will place them once weather permits. A discussion followed regarding the walking trails. Ms. Orlich went on to provide an overview of upcoming events and community meetings that she has planned.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Lake mentioned they are preparing a list of projects for seasonal drainage crew to complete this spring/summer based on safety needs. They are having a special meeting with select residents of Ross Meadow Farms on April 2nd from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Mr. Lake also said they have a meeting Thursday, April 2nd with Robinson Engineering to discuss the 53rd Court Lift Station. Mr. Lake mentioned the promotion of the Rain Barrel Program.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Mr. Pettit, Mr. Spires and Mrs. Gaza are working on the state of the region address for the Crossroads Regional Chamber event that is being held on Thursday, April 16th at 5:30. Mr. Pettit announced the Mississippi St groundbreaking will take place on April 10th at 11 a.m. at the Teamsters Training facility. He went on to say the Madison & 73rd Ave groundbreaking will take place on April 24th at 11 a.m. at St. Constantine & Helen. The general public as well as council department heads are invited to attend. Mr. Hardaway announced that Save-A-Lot food mart grand opening will take place on Wednesday, April 1st at 8 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit stated during the RDC meeting on March 24th a facade grant was awarded to Rays Movers for the old Handy Andy. A discussion followed as to the improvements this will bring to the community.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mrs. Barron announced we have enough caps for five benches. She encouraged that everyone keep bringing the caps in to be used for other things such as bike racks, picnic tables etc.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

Mr. Hardaway stated there was a meeting with rehabbers on Thursday, March 19th. Eight rehabbers came forward and expressed interest. The town informed the rehabbers that we will let them know of vacant properties and pass along the contact information to interested parties.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 15-09: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, petitioning and approving the addition of certain lands to the Merrillville Conservancy District for the purpose of obtaining sanitary sewage disposal service. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 15-07: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, authorizing the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds of the town to procure funds to be applied to the costs of financing certain road improvements and other infrastructure projects throughout the town, together with expenses incidental thereto, including expenses in connection with the issuance of the bonds, and other related matters. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 15-08: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, fixing the Parks non-reverting program fees for the year 2015. A motion was made to approve and seconded. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 15-07: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2015 budget within the CCI Fund. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 15-08: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, for procedures to be implemented to ensure compliance with federal grants. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 15-09: A Resolution authorizing and directing the Town Council President of the Town of Merrillville to submit a project proposal for Community Development Block Grant funds for federal fiscal years 2015-2016. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

Petitioner: Filip Grant
Owner: Manuel Grant
Request: Special exception approval
Purpose: For a drive through window to existing restaurant known as PJ’s Restaurant
Location: 5891 Broadway
Zoning: C-2, Community Commercial
Case #: Z7E1-0215
Conditions: For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only.

Maintenance and repairs of alley would be the responsibility of the owner of the restaurant from north to south property line and that they work with Andrean High School for maintaining the portion of the drive that will be used by the restaurant.

Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Petitioner: Landmark Sign Group
Owner: Innsbrook Country Club LLC/Greg McColly
Request: Variance of use approval
Purpose: For a proposed special exception use
freestanding sign to be constructed and top
allowed a digital message center sign to be
included on the proposed special exception use
freestanding sign.
Location: 6701 Taft Street
Zoning: R-1, Single Family Residential
Case #: Z5uV3-0215
Conditions: For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only.

Advertisement for business within the Innsbrook Country Club property only and to allow messages to be displayed for non-profit organizations and emergency services upon request.

To limit the time of display on the electronic message center sign: Sunday through Thursday from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. and on Friday and Saturday from 6:00 a.m. until midnight.

Discussion followed as to the type of specific advertisement that can be displayed on the sign. The petitioner agreed that any advertisement on the sign will be for only business activity that is conducted on the Innsbrook Country Club property. Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Pettit announced the photographer will be here to take pictures of the Town Council members on April 14, 2015 at 6 p.m. Mr. Spires announced the Town Newsletter will be available first week of April. Within the newsletter we briefly address the upcoming road projects and informed the public all updates on the projects will be provided by the Town website. Mr. Hardaway provided an update from ARC Bridges group in regards to a property located at 336 W 56th Ave. Mr. Pettit announced that Senate Bill 436 passed in the Senate 49-1 and is now in the House of Representatives.

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer’s Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, March 25, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.
- Abandoned & Blighted Properties Committee meeting, March 26, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.
- Town Hall Closed on April 3, 2015 in Observance of Good Friday.
- Stormwater Management Board meeting, April 7, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.
- Plan Commission workshop, April 7, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.
- Police Commission meeting, April 10, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.
- Town Council meeting, April 14, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.